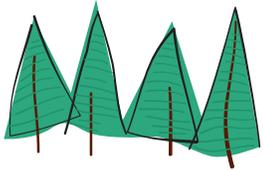


EcoFacts: Paper

Recycling paper is one way to help minimize waste going to the landfill and preserve our natural resources. A piece of paper can be recycled five to seven times before the fibers are too short to be used again.

What is the environmental benefit of recycling paper?

The Metro region recycled 437,000 tons of paper in 2003, which is the equivalent of stacking paper in a football field to the height of 2/3 mile. The U.S. recycled 49.3 million tons of paper in 2003, which would fill a football field 67 miles high.



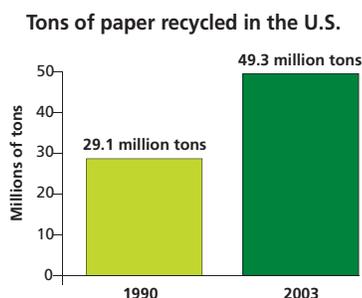
Trees saved. By recycling paper, residents in the Metro region saved 8.2 million trees from being harvested – which is equivalent to the number of trees in eight Forest Parks.

Air emissions. Air quality is improved by recycling. Recycling 437,000 tons of paper reduces air emissions equivalent to that produced by 200,238 cars driving one year. The benefit of reduced air emissions due to recycling in the U.S. is equivalent to taking 24 million cars off the road for one year.

Water savings. In 2003, paper recycling efforts in the Metro region saved more than one billion gallons of water that would have been discharged as effluent into the environment. The environmental benefit for recycling all U.S. paper would be 114 billion gallons of water per year.

Energy Savings. Producing recycled paper requires about 60 percent of the energy used to make paper from virgin wood pulp. For example, manufacturing one ton of office and computer paper with recycled paper stock can save between 3,000 and 4,000 kilowatt-hours over the same ton of paper made with virgin wood products.

How much paper is being recycled?



Americans set out 49.3 million tons of paper to be recycled in 2003, an increase of 18.5 million tons, or 64 percent, since 1990.

Recycled paper currently accounts for 37.7 percent of the paper industry's fiber needs, up appreciably from 26.6 percent in 1990.

Paper recycling steps:

Mixing paper with water and heating to reduce it to pulp

Screening pulp to remove contaminants

Washing and de-inking pulp

Pressing and drying pulp and making it into new paper



What products are made from recycled paper?

There are six paper mills in Oregon with the combined capacity to produce 10.5 million pounds of recycled-content paper per day including:

- Newsprint
- Cardboard boxes
- Toilet and facial tissue
- Paper office supplies
- Kraft paper bags (grocery bags)
- Paper towels and napkins

The paper mills in Oregon can use more paper from the Metro region to produce new products. The paper collected from recycling in the Metro region provides less than 11 percent of total paper mill needs. The rest of the paper must be shipped in from outside the area.

How much more could be recycled?

In the metro region, paper accounted for 20 percent of the total materials sent to the landfill in 2003. More than half of that paper could have been recycled.

Where is paper recycled in Oregon?



For more information

For additional resources, information or free assistance, visit www.RecycleAtWork.com or call Metro Recycling Information at (503) 234-3000.



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These fact sheets were created by Metro and your local governments to help reduce waste in the business sector. *Printed on recycled paper. 05307jg*